



State of Tennessee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 179

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Ashley Kear on receiving a 2010 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Kear of Dogwood Elementary School is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kear was recently honored with the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as an educator as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards Program provides public recognition and financial rewards to school teachers, principals, and other outstanding educators; the program strives to attract, develop, motivate, and retain talented people to the challenge and adventure of teaching; and

WHEREAS, the largest teacher recognition program in the country, the Milken National Educator Awards Program annually honors K-12 teachers, principals, and specialists across America with \$25,000 individual awards. In addition to receiving their award, these outstanding educators participate in the annual Milken National Education Conference to be held this Spring; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Kear is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kear has been a valuable member of the faculty at Dogwood Elementary School, a Title I School, for the past five years, and she holds a Master's Degree in Education and is a certified mentor teacher; and

WHEREAS, because of her optimistic demeanor and her strong foundation in data-driven differentiated instruction as well as project-based learning, Ashley Kear's students have made tremendous gains on their state assessments and value-added scores each year; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kear dearly loves her students, and she uses her engaging and inspiring presence to motivate and influence them at every opportunity, attending their extracurricular activities, tutoring and mentoring the pupils after school, and advising the parents on positive ways to be involved in their children's education; and

WHEREAS, a paragon of professionalism and a leader in her field, Ashley Kear served with acumen and alacrity as the Knox County Education Association Building Representative, advocating for policy improvements that benefit both students and teachers, and as the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Fundraising Chair at Dogwood Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kear has also distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order by graciously volunteering her time and tremendous talents to numerous noteworthy causes, including Project GRAD; a local shelter for abused women; and a government-funded housing project where some of her students live; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kear truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Kear epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ashley Kear on being chosen as a recipient of the 2010 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, commend her exceptional service to the students of Dogwood Elementary School, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: April 18, 2011



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28th day of April 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR